

Appl. No. 09/821,953
Atty. Docket No. 7973MR
Response dated 1/18/2007

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REMARKS

Independent claims 38 and 103 recite first and second zones. Each of the two zones has a polymeric additive. The amount of the polymeric additive in the first zone is greater than the amount of polymeric additive in the second zone. The claimed arrangement provides for *dual zones of coverage* which provide 1) more versatility than the prior art which teaches a single zone of uniform coverage; 2) better overall cleaning than the prior art which teaches additive-free zones; and 3) improved glide of the cleaning sheet, while retaining the ability to accomplish large particle pickup. Additionally, if desired, one can tailor the geometry of the dual zones to the size of the mop head, as set forth in the specification (42:23 et seq.).

Claims 38 – 42, 65 – 70, 74 – 83, 85 – 94 and 97 – 111 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over Lerner (5,198,292) in view of Ngai (6,314,627) and Bhattacharjee (5,227,844). Lerner discloses a cloth w PSA and a tackifier, at an add-on level of 3 to 50 weight percent. The add-on level is dependent upon cloth weight and the desired level of tack activity. Ngai teaches a non-apertured, dimensional, hydroentangled web. Drelich (5,098,764) also teaches a dimensional material. Bhattacharjee teaches the substrate may have zones free of the coating.

Combining these four references yields a non-apertured, dimensional, hydroentangled web having zones with a coating at 3 to 50 w/percent and zones free of such coating. The combination does not yield the claimed dual zone coating of the present invention. Nor does the combination yield the benefits of the dual zone coating cited above.

One of skill combining these references simply does not arrive at the claimed invention. The Office Action notes (p. 8) one of skill could employ the Bhattacharjee zone free teaching to conserve coating costs. However, the claimed invention provides a different, and possibly more effective way to conserve coating costs. For example, if the 50% coating weight were selected and employed over one-half of the Bhattacharjee sheet, an effective coating weight of 25% would result. However, the cleaning would not necessarily be as effective as the claimed dual zone substrate having one-half coated at 40% and one-half coated at 10%, to also yield an effective 25% coating weight.

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RESPONSE

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Claims 38 – 42, 65 – 70, 74 – 83, 85 – 94 and 97 – 111 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over Strickland et al (WO 98/52458 in view of Lerner and Bhattacharjee. This combination of references also yields a dimensional sheet having an additive thereon – but not the dual zone additive of the claimed invention. This combination fails for the same reasons set forth above. This combination also fails to produce the claimed dual zone coating of the present invention and the dual zone benefits resulting therefrom.

Claim 87 is cancelled hereunder to overcome an objection for improper dependency. Claims 90 – 94 and 99 – 102 are cancelled to expedite prosecution on the merits.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to cancel claims 87, 90 – 94 and 99 – 102 and to reconsider and allow the claims remaining in the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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By _____

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